

SAY PHILLIES WON'T REPEAT; PIRATES ARE WEAKER THAN EVER

Phillies Probably Will Never Again Be So Favored By Circumstances as They Were Last Year When They Won the National League Pennant; Pirates, Developing Third Baseman, Callahan's Task.

BY FRANK G. MENKE.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Outside of Philadelphia and its suburbs the general opinion is that the Phillies won't repeat. They will take the field with practically the same lineup as in 1915. That aggression was powerful enough to win the flag last year—but this is another season, one during which the Morantes will find fierce opposition than ever before.

Probably never again will any ball club be favored with such a combination of "breaks" as were those 1915 Phillies. The greatest of all came through the woeful weakness of the Giants and several other clubs. Had these clubs offered any real battle the road would have been far rougher for Pat Moran's misfits.

How Events Transpire.
The Braves chased the Phillies and seemed to have a good chance to overtake them. And then, James, the pitching star, had to quit the game. Other reverses followed and the Braves were distanced. The Dodgers whizzed along only to crack in the stretch when their batters forgot the ordinary use for the war club.

While "Cactus" Cravath was blowing himself to a home run record, Alexander was pitching as he never pitched before. And on top of it all, the Phillies gathered unto themselves almost all the baseball luck that was doled out by Dame Fortune throughout the season.

Won't Be Favored Again.
Favored thusly, the Phillies swept through to victory. But they never will be so universally favored again. Cravath may make more home runs in a single season than he did in 1915—but it's unlikely that he'll turn the trick while Alexander is pitching himself into the league leadership. And vice versa. Even should this happen again, it seems hardly possible that it will come in the same year when there are four woefully weak clubs in the field and three others weakened by injuries or other misfortunes.

Probable Lineup.
The 1916 Phillies lineup probably will be:
Luders, (1b) Cravath, (cf)
Nehoff, (2b) Pankert, (cf)
Bancroft, (ss) Whitely, (cf)
Stock, (3b) Burns, (c)
Burns may become the regular shortstop. Killifer, whose great work helped the club in the major portion of the

campaign, may not be able to play again. His wonderful whip, injured late in the summer, so far has refused to respond to treatment. Jack Adams, a substitute in 1915 probably will understate Burns. Win, Fish and H. O'Connor, secured from Manchester, N. H., do not seem to be quite ripe for regular work in the majors.

Infield Substitutes.
As infield substitutes, Moran has the choice from among: Bobby Byrne (2b), a veteran; Oscar Duguey, a fair fielder but a weak hitter, with the Moran crowd in 1915; F. Brainer, secured from Utica.

The outfield extras are Josh Devore, a veteran, sent to the minors and recalled, and Weiser, who showed nothing exciting in a Phillies uniform of 1915.

The pitching corps includes: Alexander, Chalmers, Demaree, Baumgartner, Mayer, McQuillen, Hixey and Tinkler, all with the Phils last year; Oeschger, formed out to Providence and recalled; Rhoads, a right hander from Milwaukee; Fortune, another star-boarder hurler from Asheville, N. C., and Buttle, a left handed scout.

What do you think of the repeating possibilities of this outfit, pitted against the strengthened Giant, Cubs, Braves, Dodgers and Red combinations?

Pirates Look Weaker.
The 1916 Pirates look weaker than any

gang that Barney Dreyfuss ever has sent into a 154 game scrimmage. With the lion-hearted Jimmy Callahan handling the reins, the Pirates may surprise the baseball world by finishing in the first division—but that wouldn't be merely a surprise. The club is shy in closing power; it is only ordinary in fielding skill and its pitching staff is not of the kind which can labor under such handicaps and still gather in a sizeable collection of victories.

Wagner at Short Stop.
The used Huns will be back at short. He still ran field and threw—but he can't cover the ground that he did in his prime. Added years have added the speed from his base stealing pedals and dimmed the batting orbs that shone so brightly for nearly a decade. But, even at that, Huns probably will be the main cobb in the Pirates infield.

"Doc" Johnson, the first base per-

(Continued on Next Page.)

JESS WILLIARD IN NEW YORK -- BY TAD

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Doping the 1916 Baseball Season With Hugh S. Fullerton

VIII.—National League Shortstops.

By HUGH S. FULLERTON.

	Offense	Defense	T. Val.
Boston	828	156	1281
Philadelphia	814	141	1255
Pittsburgh	805	136	1241
Cincinnati	831	135	1216
Brooklyn	795	128	1184
New York	892	176	1268
Chicago	777	135	1149
St. Louis	785	168	1151

ONE might as well dope eight eggs from the same hen as to dope the National League shortstops. The fact is, we can't tell much until they hatch. One thing is certain, though—no pennant is going to be won or lost at shortstop unless one of these men breaks a leg.

I never found in all my doping eight positions that figured so closely together. The fact that only 16 points, representing a mere fraction of the value of the position, separates first from last shows how closely together they rank. Mike Doohan's weakness at bat, which was accentuated last season in the Federal, Butler's lack of punch in the attack, Wagner's hitting, and Maranville's aggressiveness make for about all the difference there is between them. It is worth noting that no shortstop in the National is better for his own team than any other one. I doubt if there is a club in the league which would pay much to get either Maranville or Bancroft to replace its own shortstop save on the grounds of youth.

Wagner Has Gone Back.
I expected to find that Wagner still would be the leader among the shortstops in spite of the coming forward of Bancroft and Maranville, but when the final figures on Wagner were compiled it was shown that he had gone back after all these years. Wagner led him by a few points, which might be wiped out by a week of lucky hitting on his part or a couple of games of panic on their parts. We must ad-

mit Wagner is not what he was, but as he stands today he ranks a close third.

Maranville Brilliant.
Walter Maranville figures to be the best of the shortstops because of his brilliant, aggressive, and brainy work and his speed and dash, which entitle him to a lot of consideration and several additional points in the scoring. Maranville did not have a good year last year, in fact, there were times when he blew all to pieces, and some of the critics thought he was likely to slump badly through overtraining of his nerve forces. However, he came back and finished strong and looked to be really a better player than he was the year before. Things were not breaking for him as they were then, and the best of the real player he was when things were going wrong. He needed Kears alongside of him, and under Kears' guidance he was hurt by Kears' frequent lapses from the game.

Bancroft Valuable Shortstop.
Bancroft is the most valuable acquisition in the shortstop line made in many years. He made the Phillies last season, carried the infield when it was weak, and showed that he had all the class that was claimed for him. He hit about to his natural call, and in spite of the fact that his average is not high, it is above that of the average shortstop, and he looked a better hitter in the world's series against the speed and shoots of the Red Sox than he did during the regular season. He was hitting well even when he did not hit safely and he was well in the safety. That fellow ought to hit even better as he goes along, and his sensational fielding certainly has not been a fluke. I expect both Maranville and Bancroft to hit better this season than they did last, even admitting that National League pitching will be much better. Wagner I expect to start well, but wear down toward the end. He is the marvel of the game, but even he cannot hold the pace and he is not built to keep in perfect condition long before the season starts.

O'Mara Is a Good One.
Brooklyn has a working shortstopper in O'Mara, who is underclass but down his showing somewhat. Herzog is one of my ideals. I was rather surprised

to find that he analyzes very high in the mechanical part of the game before the points for brain work and aggressiveness are added. He has the eyes and brains of a Maranville, the grit and determination in attack, everything save the balance of tempo, which cuts his total value considerably, not so much as it affects his own work as that of those around him. It either makes or kills a player who works with him. He has more effort and understanding this season than he has had since joining Cincinnati in 1914. The ex-Red, who is quite a ball player and much steadier and more effective than he was before, he went to the outlaws under Pancho Gilmore. Indeed, the acquisition of Kears seems to balance up the Reds and fortify them strongly.

Flotter did not go back with his team last year. In fact, this quiet, clever fellow played very good ball under the circumstances and behind fading pitchers. His chances were much harder than they were before. He is not aggressive, just determined and nervy. Butler is quite acceptable at St. Louis, but quite finished as a fielder, and a bit muddled in the team work around second.

Chicago's Quiver Move.
Chicago did a strange thing in dropping Bobb Fischer, who hit .300 in 1915 in the National, and keeping Mike Doohan, who hit .200 in the same class in the Fed. Tinker has been released, but I think he did the right thing. Fischer had a good year, but is not the ball player he was touted to be. Doohan once was the sensation of the National. He will field wonderfully and is a valuable man at bat, even though he cannot hit. Nor must you figure Joe Tinker out of it. Tinker probably will play 30 games at short this season, with a chance at more. I figured him in 4th. His repaired kidneys are in shape and he looks lighter and better than in years. He says he will manage from the bench, but he will be out there with the managers on it. Tinker needs him. Tinker can go just as well for short as he can now as he used to go the whole route, and his combined value with Doohan lifts the Cubs' stock considerably. (Copyright, 1916, by the Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.)

WILLARD WEIGHS JUST ABOUT 250

Champion, Training Steadily, Expects to Take Off Eight Pounds More Fat.

New York, March 15.—The fact that only about 50 persons watched Jess Willard training at his indoor quarters, instead of the hundreds who paid admission to see him all through last week, did not detract from his earnestness in his work. He now weighs little over 250 pounds, stepped it, he said, and expects to take off at least eight pounds more in the next ten days.

After his early morning run in and around Central park, Willard rested until the early afternoon. His first indoor work was with the pulley. Then he boxed two rounds each with Hippie, Monahan and Rodel, the offer. Then he took on the big Turkish wrestler, Hunsan, and pulled him around for about four minutes. A brief session with the medicine ball wound up the day's activities.

Moran took it easy Tuesday after his early read run and light exercise. He said he felt fine, but thought he would rest up. To day he intends to do a full day's training and then take an other layoff until Friday, with only a perfunctory jog Thursday to fill in.

Moran assures every one who asks him about his condition that he never felt better in his life.

MANY CHANGES IN BOWLING CONGRESS STANDINGS MADE
Toledo, Ohio, March 15.—Many changes in the standing of the leaders in the American Bowling Congress were made in the play Tuesday. Helme Kiehl, of Columbus, Ohio, shot 235 for first place in the five; "Sykes" Thompson and Hank Martin, of Chicago, cleaned up 1275 in the doubles for another lead and Bob Bayd, of Chicago, ran second in the singles.

Thoms also put Chicago into another first place with 1918 in the all events, one of the best marks on the A. B. C. book.

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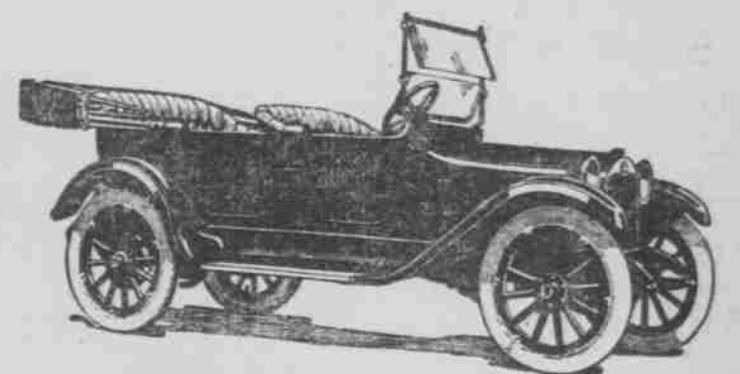
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"BECK'S" MEN CORNER

BY "BECK."

HEXATHLON is now over. El Paso did not make as many points in the senior events as was the case last year, so we can hardly hope for championship honors; but the scores of the two youngest divisions of boys are high enough to encourage a belief that the name of El Paso will be kept on the championship map. Congratulations are certainly due the "kiddies" for their wonderfully good showing.

JIM FLYNN is still the same fighting fireman and reports of his bout with Jack Dillon in New York last week indicate that it was one of the best fights of the year in the big town. Flynn was the aggressor throughout but Dillon got the popular decision because he awaited Flynn's rushes and landed heavily as the Pueblo man worked in.

NATIONAL Baseball Federation, the governing body in amateur baseball, wants to divide "amateur" ball players into two classes—class A to be strict amateurs and the class B members who accept money for playing baseball but do not rely upon it as a means of support. In other words, the class B "amateurs" would be the class now commonly known as the "semi-pros."

BENNY KAUFF is with the Giants at Marlin. Benny put up a big noise about not being treated fairly when the Giants failed to give him a bonus at the time of his purchase from the Federals. But when he saw that he was going to be left out in the cold unless he "lined up," he got busy and scrawled his "John Henry" on a contract. Benny decided to forget about that bonus talk.

FRANK MORAN will weigh 205 pounds when he enters the ring, a week from Saturday night, to face Jess Willard. And reports are that Willard will weigh at least 250 pounds so he'll have 45 pounds on the challenger. However, if Moran is able to land as often and as hard on Willard as he did on Luther McCarty, Jim Coffey, and a few others there may be no particular advantage in 45 pounds extra weight.

JACK HERRICK is in hard luck. Whitey Burns, of the 20th infantry, is going to be too busy with his rifle to pay any attention to boxing gloves for the next few weeks.

RACETRACK fans who were counting on "getaway" prizes were "up in the air" when the "getaway" day was pulled off without warning. It was over before they knew it.

ELEPHANT BUTTE GUN CLUB HAS LAST SHOOT

Elephant Butte, N. M., March 15.—Following is a list of the scores of the members of the Elephant Butte Gun club at the regular weekend trap shoot:

	Score
Sam N. Matson	100
Frank Cooper	100
M. E. Young	100
H. D. Klenz	100
W. D. Nease	100
D. A. Miller	100
J. A. Charles	100
C. E. Haddad	100
C. E. Dunaway	100

This is probably the last shoot of the club this season and the members thank The El Paso Herald for publishing their scores in the past.

Shirleyport Beats Cincinnati

Shirleyport, La., March 15.—The Shirleyport team defeated the Cincinnati team in a boxing match at the local arena here on Saturday night.